

DePriest, the first Black Congressman of the 20th century; Mary McLeod Bethune, educator and White House advisor; A. Philip Randolph, the trade union leader; and Dr. Charles Drew, the pioneer of blood plasma. This editorial highlights the many accomplishments of Black Americans in religion, the arts, education, and science. It would take years to complete a list of all the accomplishments Blacks have made in America, which have transformed our own lives, as well as those of people around the world.

[From the New York Carib News, Feb. 19, 2008]

**BLACKS WHO HELPED TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY AND IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF PEOPLE'S LIVES EVERYWHERE**

"Ask historians about Oliver Cromwell and they would quickly point to the man who became Lord Protector of England, Ireland and Scotland between 1653-58.

But there was another Oliver Cromwell, who was born in Burlington County in New Jersey, exactly a century after the gentleman who essentially was a dictator turned down the English crown.

While the American is often ignored by the chroniclers of the nation's past, the fact of the matter is that he made his presence felt when George Washington crossed the Delaware River on the Windy night of December 25, 1776 to attempt to capture the British garrison at Trenton. Actually, the Black man was among 2,400 hand picked troops who caught the unsuspecting mercenaries of the British unawares. It was a much needed victory that did much to lift the spirits of colonists and boost people's morale. The rest, as they say, is history. George Washington and his forces eventually went on to victory in the battle for independence stretched over a number of years after the river Crossing.

This episode is important because what it demonstrates once again is the role which Blacks played in fighting for America's freedom. They were present at the creation of the nation and have been working assiduously ever since. In almost every major battle in America's history, whether military or civil, Blacks have shouldered their share of the burden and took up the challenge of defending or building the country.

They persisted against all odds.

Today, their names litter the pages of history, covering everything from religion, science, the arts, health, education make such a long list of Black pioneers that it would take years to complete.

Some like the Benjamin Banneker, a mathematical wizard; Prince Hall, the fraternal leader; Paul Cuffee, a late 18th century ship builder and owner; Elijah McCoy and Granville Wood, inventors; George Washington Carver, the savior of southern agriculture; Daniel Hale Williams, the first successful heart surgeon; and Charles Drew, the pioneer in blood plasma. In their different ways these Blacks helped to transform our lives, making them better for every one.

But the list doesn't end there. Harriet Tubman, the liberator of slaves; Sojourner Truth, a pilgrim of freedom; Madame C.J. Walker, the cosmetics manufacturer; Paul R. Williams the architect, and A.G. Gaston, the shining light for free enterprise who showed the way forward towards success in commerce are also among them.

How about the contributions of Oscar DePriest, the first Black Congressman of the 20th century; A. Philip Randolph, the pre-eminent trade union leader; Edward W. Brooke, the U.S. Senator from Massachusetts who represented a new breed of politi-

cians in Washington, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the great humanist and civil rights leader of the 20th and any century; Mary McLeod Bethune, the cotton-picker, educator and White House adviser; and Congressman Charles Rangel, the long serving Democrat from Harlem and Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee of the House of Representatives, an eloquent voice for reason and social justice? They are but a small sampling of the voices for the multitude.

Think of the persons who helped to widen the entrance to education and Carter Woodson, the father of Black History Month, Arthur Schomburg, the bibliophile and antiquarian, Alain Locke, the Rhodes Scholar and philosopher, and John Hope Franklin, the historian spring quickly to mind.

James Weldon Johnson, the gentleman of letters, Gwendolyn Brooks, a Pulitzer Prize winner and Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the people's poet are among the tellers of troubled or delightful tales.

These Black American contributors helped to ease our pain, bring smiles to our faces and opened human civilization to new vistas.

In the process they became worthy of the praise being showered on them and many more African-Americans during Black History month.

**RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL IN HEREFORD, TEXAS**

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I proudly congratulate St. Anthony's School on the occasion of its 90th anniversary. The school's 90th anniversary was celebrated along with Catholic Schools Week from January 27-February 2, 2008.

St. Anthony's began providing Catholic education in 1914 with the purpose of supplying children with knowledge of the Catholic faith, as well as a strong foundation for future learning. In 1917-1918, continuous classes were introduced. St. Anthony's moved to its current location in 1955 where 14 classrooms, a library, a meeting room, a cafeteria and a gym now make up the school.

Throughout its history, several orders of religious nuns have staffed the school. Presently, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate make up the faculty. They have taught and maintained St. Anthony's since the 1987-1988 school year.

St. Anthony's provides classes from pre-school through sixth grade. The school remains focused on teaching the Catholic faith while also providing the opportunity for students to acquire the skills needed to achieve high honors upon entering the Hereford Independent School District upper grades. Students participate in acts of service, the Accelerated Reading Program and after-school activities such as sports or choir. The six-member board of education along with Principal Ann Lueb and Rev. John Valdez govern the school and determine policies.

During the 90th anniversary celebration, Dolores Loerwald Brorman was presented with the 2008 National Catholic Education Association Distinguished Graduate Award. The award

recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to American society and the Catholic Church and has been presented to a deserving graduate of St. Anthony's School every year since 1993.

I applaud St. Anthony's school for providing quality education and developing knowledgeable and honorable students for 90 years. Also, I congratulate Dolores Loerwald Brorman on receiving the 2008 Distinguished Graduate Award and making such a mark in her community.

IN HONOR OF MR. ELMER D. SAXTON, SR.

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the late Elmer D. Saxton, Sr. Mr. Saxton passed away peacefully at the age of 87 on Monday, February 18, 2008, surrounded by his family. Formerly, Mr. Saxton served as the State of Delaware Service Officer for the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.

Mr. Saxton was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Agnes, in 1993. A career soldier, Mr. Saxton proudly served our country as a member of the United States Army in both World War II and the Korean War. He was recognized for his service in various artillery and ordinance corps by several commendation medals. Following his retirement from active duty, Mr. Saxton worked for the University of Delaware and the United States Postal Service before taking his position at the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Upon his retirement from his position as Delaware's VFW Service Officer, Mr. Saxton continued to put forth tireless effort in assisting those in need. As a member of the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus, as well as an ongoing member of the VFW, he devoted himself to ensuring that flags were placed on all veterans' graves and that members of the honor guard served for fallen comrades. In addition, Mr. Saxton was instrumental in the establishment of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery and the Veterans Nursing Home in Milford, Delaware. As a founder and faithful member of Holy Family Church for many years, he enthusiastically participated in community outreach and service projects, including the collection and distribution of food with Val's Needy People fund and the delivery of emergency and holiday groceries. Mr. Saxton faced all challenges with one goal in mind: to help another.

Mr. Saxton, or "Pop", as he was called by his family, will be lovingly remembered by his three children, nine grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. They will remember him as a man who loved to solve crossword puzzles, loved to root for his beloved Philadelphia Eagles and Phillies and Wilmington Blue Rocks, and loved to help others. His superlative example of heroism, dedication, and selflessness will serve as an inspiration to all those who knew him.